



## **Leon Valley Park Commission Meeting Minutes**

**The Park Commission of the City of Leon Valley, Texas met on the 14th day of March, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., at the Leon Valley Conference Center, 6421 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:**

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**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Determine if Quorum is Present.**

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, with the following Commissioners in attendance: Vice-Chair Danielle Bolton and Commissioners Kathy Hill, Jack Dean, Geraldine Rodriguez-Smith, Kris Ericson-Cano, and Alternate Joyce Trent. Absent and excused were Commissioners Carolyn Gabriel, Michelle Alonzo, David Smith, and Alternate Megan Hill. Also present was Councilmember Alcocer; Staff member Melinda Moritz; residents Robert Jarzombek and Al Uvietta; and guests Jorge Rodriguez, Gerald Acuna, and Jose Sanchez from the Alamo City Hobby Shop.

**2. Review and Consider Approval of the February 14, 2018 Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Dean made a motion to approve the February 14, 2019 Regular Park Commission meeting minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Ericson-Cano. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizens to be Heard**

Mr. Al Uvietta spoke to the Commissioners, stating that he was not in favor of positioning the proposed Hike & Bike trail in the CPS easement in the Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park. He stated that he would rather the existing trail be expanded and that a more natural surface be used, instead of concrete, while also assuring it was ADA accessible. Staff member Moritz explained that the Park Commission was not responsible for the trail alignment, but that the Hike & Bike Trail Advisory Committee would be meeting soon and she would let them know of his concerns.

**4. Welcome Commission Members to Regular and Alternate Member Positions (Commissioners)**

Chairman Christensen stated that the City Council had approved the seating of Kris Ericson-Cano as a regular member of the Park Commission and that they had appointed Joyce Trent and Megan Hill as Alternates. Ms. Moritz stated that new member Megan Hill had a conflict and was not able to attend the first meeting. Chairman Christensen then had each of the Commissioners introduce themselves and give a brief biography.

**5. Reports: Activities or Events that Impact Parks or Access to Parks:**

**A. Discussion and Action – Consider a Request for a Variance to Leon Valley City Code, Article 1.09 Parks and Recreation, Division 2. Use Regulations, Section 1.09.037 Park resource usage, Subsection (b), by Jorge Rodriguez of the Alamo City Hobby Shop, to Allow Radio Control Car Event(s) at Raymond Rimkus Park (M. Moritz)**

Staff member Moritz gave a presentation, stating that they had received a request from Jorge Rodriguez of the Alamo City Hobby Shop to use the newly acquired 1.05 acre parcel of land next to the large parking lot at Raymond Rimkus Park for radio controlled (RC Car) car racing. She noted that Mr. Rodriguez was a Leon Valley business owner and that they currently held racing events at O.P. Schnabel Park. He explained that they would like to use Raymond Rimkus Park in order to be closer to his shop and car parts.

He went on to explain that the group would like to create some natural tracks for the rock crawler toy trucks and a smoother flat track for the RC toy cars. He stated that they planned on holding two events per month in the late afternoons and that the events usually took about two to three hours to conclude. He noted that the races were held in rounds, with each round taking approximately 15 minutes to complete. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the cars were electric, so there would be minimal noise. He explained that the rock crawler trucks were very slow as they were required to crawl over larger rocks and debris without flipping or falling over.

Commissioner Rodriguez-Smith asked if they had received any complaints about this use from patrons of O.P. Schnabel Park, to which Mr. Rodriguez replied he had not and that most of the people who watched liked the events and took pictures. He stated that the onlookers usually asked where they could buy one of

the cars and where the events were held. He noted that they would clean up any trash after each event and leave the area in better condition than they found it.

Chairman Christensen asked if he thought the car owners would be using other parts of the park. Mr. Rodriguez stated that they could put up a sign designating the area for RC Cars to prevent the use of the remainder of the park and that he would post the rules of the event on his FaceBook page.

After more general discussion, Commissioner Dean stated that he would like to see a demonstration of an event before deciding on the variance request and that since the next meeting would be held at The Ridge at Leon Valley Park, it would be a good place for a demonstration race. The rest of the Commissioners agreed, as did Mr. Rodriguez.

Staff member Moritz stated that the land proposed to be used should be made a part of Raymond Rimkus Park, so that the rules and regulations for parks would apply to this undedicated land.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to recommend that the 1.05 acre vacant parcel be dedicated as a part of Raymond Rimkus Park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez-Smith and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rodriguez-Smith made a motion to table the variance request to the next regular Park Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill and the motion carried unanimously.

**B. Discussion and Possible Action – Park Master Plan Recommendations – (M. Moritz / Commissioners).**

Staff member Moritz stated that she had emailed everyone a copy of the draft Master Plan and noted that she was still waiting for their revisions.

**C. Update – City Council Decision on Peachtree St. Vacant Lot (M. Moritz).**

Staff member Moritz explained that the Council had heard the recommendation from the Park Commission, but several Council members had expressed their desire to allow the citizens to weigh in on the new design. She explained that she expected the subject to be placed on an upcoming Coffee with the Council.

## 6. Commissioner and Staff Comments.

Chairman Christensen stated that he hoped the Commissioners would attend the meeting in which the Peachtree Park concept was to be discussed to show their support. Staff member Moritz stated that she would be sure to alert the members.

Commissioner Trent stated that she really liked the concept of the RC Car events, but that she was trying to imagine all of the potential consequences to the natural lay of the land. She noted her appreciation of being able to see an event.

Commissioner Hill stated that the Leon Valley Historical Society would be holding their quarterly Meet and Greet at the Library the next Thursday and she encouraged everyone to attend. She stated that the event would be held from 6 pm to 8 pm and that their guest would be Archeologist Clinton McKenzie and that he would be presenting the artifacts found at the Huebner-Onion metal detecting event.

Commissioner Ericson-Cano stated that she had attended the Earthwise Living Day event and found it to be very worthwhile. She noted that she would like to talk about what the Park Commission could present at the next event to get people interested in the park system.

Chairman Christensen reminded the Commissioners that the next meeting was to be held at The Ridge at Leon Valley Park.

## 7. Adjourn

Commissioner Dean made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez-Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

## Minutes approved:

Melinda Smith for  
Chairman Roger Christensen

April 11, 2019  
Date